AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A method for inhibiting cell death, comprising:

administrating an anion channel-forming peptide to cells under lactacidosis.

2. (original) A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the cell death is necrotic cell death.

3. (currently amended) A method as set forth in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the cell death is judged based on nuclear stainability by cell membrane impermeable fluorescent dye propidium iodine.

4. (currently amended) A method as set forth in Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the cell death is accompanied with significant reduction in mitochondrial dehydrogenase activity.

5. (currently amended) A method as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the anion channel-forming peptide is a VacA protein derived from *Helicobacter pylori*.

6. (currently amended) A method as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~ Claim 1, wherein the anion channel-forming peptide is a glycine receptor channel variant peptide.

7. (original) A cell death inhibitor comprising an anion channel-forming peptide.

8. (original) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in Claim 7 inhibiting necrotic cell death.

9. (currently amended) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in Claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein inhibition of the necrotic cell death is evaluated according to loss of nuclear stainability by cell membrane impermeable fluorescent dye propidium iodide.

10. (currently amended) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in Claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein inhibition of the necrotic cell death is evaluated by prevention of reduction of mitochondrial dehydrogenase activity.

11. (currently amended) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 7 to 10~~ Claim 7, wherein the anion channel-forming peptide is a VacA protein derived from *Helicobacter pylori*.

12. (currently amended) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 7 to 10~~ Claim 7, wherein the anion channel-forming peptide is a glycine receptor channel variant peptide.

13. (currently amended) A therapeutic drug comprising a cell death inhibitor as set forth in ~~any one of Claims 7 to 12~~ Claim 7 and being used for treating disease caused by cell death.

14. (original) A therapeutic drug as set forth in Claim 13, used for treating disease caused by glial cell death.

15. (new) A cell death inhibitor as set forth in Claim 11, inhibiting death of glial cells.